Southern Ontario Library Service

SIGNAL online 2005

Archives

Current edition: December 21, 2005

Published by the Southern Ontario Library Service

The introductory page for the Southern Ontario Library Service is www.sols.org. From that page, you can move to any other pages created by staff at the Southern Ontario Library Service, as well as to links to resources and professional information.

In this issue:

1. A MESSAGE FROM SOLS CHAIR, SUSANNAH KETCHUM
2. HOLIDAY PERIOD – DELIVERY SERVICES AND SOLS OFFICE
3. POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2005
4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
a) Starbucks sponsors ABC Canada Literacy Program– *Deadline: February 1, 2006*
b) Ontario Trillium Foundation – *Next deadline: March 1, 2006*
5. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES - NEW ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION GROUPS
6. WORKSHOP REPORT AND INFORMATION - Mandatory retirement
7. SOLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS
a) AudioBook Demo Day
b) A training opportunity with the Ottawa Public Library
8. EXCEL – Distance education–*Registration deadline – Friday, January 6, 2006*
9. TD Summer Reading program 2006-*Registration deadline - Friday, January 20, 2006*
10. PROMOTION OF FRANCO-ONTARIAN BOOKS
11. First Nations Public Library Week 2006
12. ADDITIONS TO THE WEBSITE
13. SOLS In the Community
14. SOLS CEO LISTSERV
15. SOLS BOARD SUMMARY - *December 2005*
16. ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 5, 2005

---

1. A MESSAGE FROM SOLS CHAIR, SUSANNAH KETCHUM

To our client libraries,

The past year has been very difficult for SOLS and I would like to thank you all for your efforts on our behalf after our Budget Cut. Your letters to the Minister, other MPPs and the press brought a great deal of attention to SOLS and OLS-N. There is no question that the Ministry of Culture was surprised by the outcry attendant upon their cutting our budget. At the same time SOLS Board and staff were very much heartened by your letters and messages of support.

If there is one ray of light in our present situation it is that MPPs are now very aware of SOLS and of the importance of Ontario's libraries. We hope that you will reinforce that awareness by participating in the Minister of Finance's Budget Consultations. While attendance at a session is by invitation only, anyone may make a submission through the Ministry's website submissions@fin.gov.on.ca. Given the cut to library services this year, I think it is very important that the Minister of Finance hear from many libraries. We hope that you will include the need to support SOLS in your submission.

SOLS' submission to the Minister of Finance has been posted on our website. I would be interested in receiving a copy of any submissions you make. You can forward your copies to swalls@sols.org . I would also suggest that you send a copy of your submission to the Minister of Culture.

Thank you.

Susannah D. Ketchum, SOLS Chair

---

2. HOLIDAY PERIOD – DELIVERY SERVICES AND SOLS OFFICE

The SOLS Toronto office will be closed from Monday, December 26, 2005 until Monday, January 2, 2006, and will reopen at 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 3, 2006. The delivery routes will operate on Friday, December 23, 2005, following the regular schedule. The routes will not operate during the holiday season from Monday, December 26, 2005 until Monday, January 2, 2006. On Tuesday, January 3, 2006, the regular schedule will resume for all routes but Route E. Details for Route E will be sent directly to the libraries on this route.

---

3. POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2005

As part of the interlibrary loan system, items are shared between libraries and transported either by SOLS courier or through Library Mail Rate (if the library is not on the SOLS courier system). The postage paid by the lending library at the time of mailing covers BOTH the outgoing and the return postage and SOLS will reimburse the lending library for the cost of the mailing.

SOLS will compensate its member libraries for fixed **library mail rate postage** charges incurred to send Interlibrary loan items to:

1. public libraries in SOLS that are not on the SOLS courier (*not branches)
2. public libraries in OLS-North
3. for commercial courier charges *for a limited number of "RUSH" items*

SOLS does not reimburse library mail rate for shipping interlibrary loan items to:

1. libraries outside Ontario
2. libraries on the SOLS courier
3. branch libraries, if the main branch is served by SOLS courier

On January 16, 2006, SOLS staff will start working on the 2005 Reimbursements. There is a link on the "INFO Interlibrary Loan - Policies, Procedures and Statistics" section of the SOLS website. To use the Form, you need a username and password. If you do not have these, please contact the SOLS Helpdesk at helpdesk@sols.org or by telephone at 1-800-387-5765, ext. 4. The direct link to the online Postage Reimbursement Form is http://www.sols.org/resourcesharing/INFO/policies/postage/reimbursement.htm

---

4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

a) Starbucks sponsors ABC Canada Literacy Program– *Deadline: February 1, 2006*

In mid-December, the ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation announced that Starbucks Coffee Canada has signed an agreement to be the sponsor of Gift of Words™ presented by Starbucks. The program, developed and managed by ABC CANADA, is a national funding initiative providing resources for public and school libraries and literacy organizations to expand their book collections and launch 'reading circles' that encourage students, their teachers and parents to read and learn together.

Organizations wishing to be considered for funding must apply directly to ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation by filling out an application form available on the ABC CANADA website at http://www.abc-canada.org/gow/. The deadline for applications is February 1, 2006. Recipients will be announced March 15, 2006.

b) Ontario Trillium Foundation – *Next Deadline: March 1, 2006*

The Ontario Trillium Foundation delivers two granting programs, the Community program and the Province-Wide program. Public libraries became eligible for the OTF **community program** following the completion of the strategic initiative for small libraries. There is no special, separate program for libraries. Under the OTF Guidelines, small municipalities (populations of 20,000 or less) and Local Services Boards may apply for community grants in the arts and culture and sports and recreation sectors only. An application may include funding for more than one initiative in a sector as long as the initiatives have related goals and outcomes. Small municipalities and Local Services Boards may hold two grants at a time provided one of the grants is for a library. Operating costs that have been previously funded by the municipality are not eligible for OTF funding.

Applications for grants for **municipal libraries** serving small communities (populations of 20,000 or less) must be submitted through the municipality. Applications for grants for **county libraries** serving small municipalities (populations of 20,000 or less) must be submitted through the County Library Board. Applications for grants for **First Nation libraries** must be submitted through the First Nation's Band Council.

A copy of the application process is posted on the Foundation's website at http://www.trilliumfoundation.org/OTF-English/new/index.htm There is also a link to the Trillium website from the main SOLS page at www.sols.org. The deadlines for the 2006 round of applications are March 1, July 1 and November 1 – at 5:00 pm on the deadline date. A list of some of the library projects which were announced on December 5th (for projects submitted in July 2005) appears at the end of this newsletter.

---

5. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES - NEW ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION GROUPS

SOLS provides an environment which offers opportunities for staff and trustees to make contact with each other and share problem-solving solutions and advice. This is done electronically

through a variety of Electronic Discussion Lists housed on SOLS' website (39 in all), and physically through networking opportunities, such as Trustee Councils, Library Committee Meetings, and a First Nation Gathering. Information about the Electronic Discussion Lists can be found from the main SOLS page using the link for "Networking Opportunities". Over the past few months, SOLS has been working on setting up two new listservs – for trustees, and for those working in teen services, as well as proposing a third one for staff working in shared facilities with schools.

a) Trustee Listservs - In last month's issue of *Signal*, it was announced that public library board members who attend specific SOLS Trustee Council meetings would be eligible to participate in one of the eight trustee council listservs. The purpose of these lists is to provide a forum for trustees to share information, follow up on issues discussed at the meeting, and post questions to fellow trustees. Each Trustee Council has been given a name, for example SOLSTC1, SOLSTC3. We added the e-mail addresses for those trustees we know, but to add a trustee e-mail address to a specific list, please see the "Networking" section of the SOLS website at http://lists.library.on.ca/mailman/listinfo.cgi/ .

b) Teen Listserv – Throughout fall 2005, SOLS offered a series of workshops entitled "Service to Teens", presented by Lisa Heggum of Toronto Public Library. At that time, several participants expressed an interest in being able to continue the discussions around teen services. For this reason, all workshop participants have been added to this listserv. The listserv, called TEENLIST, is open to anyone interested in this topic. Others who wish to participate on this listserv can subscribe to the listserv at http://lists.library.on.ca/mailman/listinfo.cgi/teenlist

c) Shared facility listserv – We have had some interest in setting up a listserv for those who work in facilities that are shared, especially where a public library shares their facilities with, or is located within, a school. This listserv has not yet been established, but if you would like to participate, please send an e-mail to signal@sols.org. If there is sufficient interest, this e-mail will be set up in the new year.

---

6. WORKSHOP REPORT AND INFORMATION - Mandatory retirement

Each year, SOLS offers a number of workshops in various locations. In this section of Signal, we hope to be able to report back on some of the workshops that have taken place. This month, our focus is the SOLS Legislative workshop.

It was a full house at SOLS Legislative Update held on December 12th at the Bathurst Clark Resource Centre at the Vaughan Public Library. Barbara Humphrey, from the law firm Stringer, Brisbin and Humphrey, spoke on the topics of the **Civil, Respectful Workplace** and the **End of Mandatory Retirement**.

In the first part of the session, Barb Humphrey discussed how Canadian courts are recognizing the employer's legal obligation to provide a workplace consistent with employee well-being and their responsibility for creating and maintaining a civil and respectful work environment. Gone are the days of telling employees to sort out their own differences or of supervisors using threats and intimidation as a management tool. Employers have a new responsibility to deliver respectful workplace interactions. Employees have successfully asserted constructive dismissal as a result of exposure to uncivil behaviour of supervisors, managers and co-workers. One response to this new issue is for organizations to prepare standards that support a civil workplace and prohibit hostile, embarrassing, and demeaning communication and interaction. The sample policy and employee brochure that were distributed at the workshop are posted in the Clearinghouse section of the SOLS website. You will find the link in the "Human Resources" sub-section at http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/hrresources/index.htm under the heading "Workplace Environment".

In the second part of the workshop, Humphrey discussed the challenge of managing the aging workforce and the employment laws that support the equality of rights for the aging worker. The Ontario Human Rights Commission requires that employers make accommodation for the needs of older employees including revising workplace expectations and working conditions. The importance of a comprehensive performance management process was identified as necessary for being able to reduce the liability of age discrimination and to be able to present "just cause" for termination. In 2003 SOLS published ***Coaching for Service and Success: A Guide to Performance Feedback***. Each library received one copy of this publication but additional copies can be ordered through the publications section of the SOLS website at http://www.sols.org/librarydev/publications/ldguides/index.htm. Humphrey's concluded that employers will be compelled to accommodate older employees because of the pending labour shortage.

---

7. SOLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR SPRING 2006 – *Information available in late January 2006*

One of the "ends" for SOLS is that "libraries are equipped to meet future challenges and opportunities". With this in mind, on an ongoing basis, SOLS staff arrange workshops on a variety of topics at various locations across Ontario. SOLS staff are now planning for the Spring 2006 workshop series and information about those workshops will be posted on the SOLS website in late January 2006 at http://www.sols.org/training/workshops/index.html .

a) *AudioBook Demo Day* – SOLS staff have arranged for an AudioBook Demo Day that will take place on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at the Bathurst-Clark Resource Centre of the Vaughan Public Library, located at 900 Clark Avenue West in Thornhill. From 10 am to noon, the vendor will be Michael Aprieto from netlibrary. There will be a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m. From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., the vendor will be Claudia Weissman from Overdrive. Participants will have a chance to see the latest in AudioBooks, evaluate the products, and have their questions answered. So that we can plan the numbers, please indicate your participation to training@sols.org as soon as possible. In your e-mail, please indicate how many people from your library will be participating, and also if you will be staying for lunch (at a cost of $10.00 per person).

b) A training opportunity with the Ottawa Public Library - The Ottawa Public Library has asked SOLS to extend an invitation to area libraries to attend a one-day workshop for the **"Every Child Ready to Read"** early literacy program. Ottawa has hired Saroj Ghoting, a trainer from ALA, to run the workshop. The event will be held on **Thursday, February 2, 2006** at the Ottawa Public Library, Main branch auditorium. The cost for participants outside the Ottawa Public Library system will be $50 for the full day. If you would like to participate, contact Nancy McPherson of SOLS by e-mail at . Payment will be made directly to the Ottawa Public Library on the day of the workshop. For more information about the workshop, please contact Jane Venus at the Ottawa PL at (613) 236-0302 ext 562 or by e-mail to Jane.Venus@library.ottawa.on.ca

---

8. EXCEL – Distance education for public libraries –*Registration deadline – Friday, January 6, 2006*

SOLS has been offering its distance education program called EXCEL since 1998. Over 500 individuals have completed the requirements for the certificate program, and many more have taken specific courses of interest to them. The information about the **2006 Winter** semester of the EXCEL program, as well as a registration form, has been posted on the SOLS web site at http://www.sols.org/librarydev/training/excel/RegistrationInfo.htm. The registration deadline is **Friday, January 6, 2006.**

In **English**, we are offering the following courses for the Winter semester:

#1 – Introduction to Public Libraries
#5 – Library Marketing
#7 – Collection Development for Children
#8 – Collection Development for Young Adults
#9 – Collection Development for Adults – *revised for this semester*
#11 – Communication Skills
#12 – Collection Organization
#16 – Professional Development **(web-based)**
#17 – Electronic Information Sources **(web-based)** – *revised for this semester*

In **French**, we are offering the following courses for the Winter semester:

#1 - Introduction aux bibliothèques publiques
#3 – Supervision
#16 - Formation professionnelle (**cours en ligne)**
#17 - Ressources électroniques d'information (**course en ligne)** - *révisé*

---

9. TD Summer Reading program 2006 - *Registration deadline Friday, January 20, 2006*

Since 2000, the Southern Ontario Library Service has supported the TD Summer Reading program by coordinating the program registration and assuming full responsibility for the distribution of TD Summer Reading materials to libraries across southern Ontario. In 2006, the program will, once again, be available to public libraries across Ontario, with SOLS assuming the same responsibilities as in the past. The program is sponsored by the TD Financial Group, and the posters, booklets and other resource materials are being developed by the staff at the Toronto and Ottawa Public Libraries and Library and Archives Canada.

The 2006 TD Summer Reading program theme is "Quest for Heroes", which includes community heroes, family heroes, heroes in myths and legends, modern heroes - the whole works!! The illustrator for the 2006 TD Summer Reading program will be Martha Newbigging. Martha Newbigging has illustrated six children's books, including *Research Ate My Brain: The Panic-Proof Guide to Surviving Homework*, written by the Toronto Public Library (Annick 2005), *Attack of the Killer Video Book: Tips and Tricks for Young Directors*, written by Mark Shulman and Hazlitt Krog (Annick 2004) and *Archers, Alchemists and 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved or Loathed*, written by Priscilla Galloway (Annick 2003).

The registration deadline for the program is **Friday, January 20, 2006** and the registration form is posted on the SOLS website at http://www.sols.org/marketing/summerreading/orderform.htm

---

10. PROMOTION OF FRANCO-ONTARIAN BOOKS

The Sudbury office Radio-Canada is asking for the support of Ontario public libraries for the 6th edition of the **Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada.** This is a people's choice literary award dedicated to the promotion of reading, Franco-Ontarian literature, and Franco-Ontarian authors. The 6th edition of the Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada will be launched on February 11, 2006. The Launch will then kick off the reader recruitment period that will last until March 5, 2006.

Ten (10) readers will be selected from among all entrants from the Ontario/Ouatouais region and they will read five (5) to seven (7) Franco-Ontarian works over a period of approximately two months.

Radio-Canada listeners from across Ontario will be invited to comment upon the books, and this is where libraries are most important. If the books are available, people will read them and, hopefully, add their voices to the jury. In the past years, certain libraries took their own initiative and invited the readers to post their reading critiques in a special log book. The readers were also invited to post their choice as to which book deserved the title of **Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada.** Comments about the books can be posted by anyone on the Radio-Canada web site at www.radio-canada.ca/prixdeslecteurs.

On May 5 and 6, 2006, the committee will meet to deliberate and designate the best Franco-Ontarian work. The Prix des lecteurs Radio-Canada will be presented at the Salon du livre du Grand in Sudbury.

As in the past, the selection of titles will be made available on the SOLS website. It will also be possible to purchase this collection of books through a bulk purchase arrangement with OLS-North, although details are not yet available. Promotional material, such as a poster and bookmark – in French only - will be made available. If you have not participated in the past, but would like more information, please contact SOLS French Services Consultant, Claire-Marie Paquette-Finlay 1-866-8624596, email cmfinlay@sols.org The deadline for joining the partnership is January 13, 2006.

=

11. First Nations Public Library Week 2006

The First Nations Public Library Week planning committee has been laying the groundwork for the 2006 program and everyone is invited to participate in the celebrations. Here is information to help get your library's planning underway. The dates for First Nations Public Library Week will be February 13-18, 2006.

Theme: "Preserving Our Cultures Story by Story ... Building Our Communities Book by Book"

The inspiration for the theme grew out of artwork we are using for the 2006 poster. Once again, our aboriginal colleagues in Saskatchewan are delighted with our theme selection and will use it for their 2006 Aboriginal Storytelling Week (which also takes place in February).

Poster: We are confident you are going to be pleased with the 2006 poster. We encountered Yukon batik artist, Lynn Blaikie, at the 2004 Christmas One of a Kind craft show in Toronto last December. "Storytime," one of the works of art she was displaying, seemed ideal for our purpose and, after learning about the First Nations Public Library and Aboriginal Storytelling Week programs, Lynn graciously agreed to allow us to use "Storytime" as our 2006 poster graphic. Once again, the Ontario Library Association is supporting First Nations Public Library Week by designing, printing and distributing the poster to ALL public libraries in Ontario. Your library will receive its poster in January.

For more information, contact Patty Lawlor, First Nations Consultant, at 1-800-387-5765, ext. 5107 or plawlor@sols.org . You will find more information about First Nations Public Library Week 2006, as it becomes available through December and January, on the SOLS web site at: http://www.sols.org/marketing/fnpubliclibraryweek/index.htm.

---

12. ADDITIONS TO THE WEBSITE

Each week, the SOLS web editor adds numerous links to the Clearinghouse section of our website located at http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/index.htm.

Under the Clearinghouse sub-section called "Facilities Planning Resources" at http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/facilities/index.htm , a number of links have been added, including:

- *People Places: A guide for public library buildings in New South Wales*. Second Edition 2005. Published by the Library Council of New South Wales, this document provides practical advice on the challenging process of planning a new public library building to meet the needs of the community. The coverage of building issues is thorough and relevant to libraries in Ontario. The direct web address for this document is http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/publications/pdf/peopleplaces_2ndedition.pdf

- *Better Public Libraries*. This is a British report on how trends in library service have important implications for the design of library buildings. It provides a number of examples of where the design of a library has had a major impact on how the community uses it. The direct web address is http://www.mla.gov.uk/documents/id874rep.pdf

- *Libraries must also be Buildings: New Library Impact Study*. March 2003. This British study, by the Centre for Public Libraries and Information in Society and the Department of Information Studies, at the University of Sheffield, undertakes an assessment of the impact of a new library building on local communities. The study also identifies how the impact of a new library can be enhanced through planning, partnerships, design, marketing and social capital. The direct web address is http://cplis.shef.ac.uk/New%20Library%20Impact%20Study.pdf

In the Clearinghouse, there is a sub-section called "Board Development Resources" which is posted at http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/boarddev/index.htm Under the heading of "Advocacy", a new link has been added for the Election Kit of IMPACS, the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society. This kit was prepared for use by charitable and non-profit organizations that wish to raise the issue of charities and advocacy with candidates. The kit is full of practical ideas that can be adapted to discuss a wide variety of issues and includes a summary of the rules affecting registered charities during an election. The direct web address for the kit is http://www.voluntary-sector.ca/eng/election06/election_kit.pdf

---

13. SOLS In the Community

Patty Lawlor, First Nations consultant, is co-chairing the Canadian Library Association's Aboriginal People's Interest Group for the 2005-2007 term. She shares the responsibility with Deborah Pelletier, Manager, Aboriginal Heritage Initiatives, Strategic Office, Library and Archives Canada.

Several SOLS staff members will be participating in OLA sessions. Anne Marie Madziak is working with Deb Jackson on a session called "Charting new territory: The Library Board's role in planning and budgeting for future success". This session is #318 and will be presented on Thursday, February 2nd at 9:05 am.

Rob Lavery is presenting a session entitled "Building Philanthrophy: Funding programs libraries should be doing". This session is #1017 and will be presented on Friday, February 3rd at 9:05. His second session is called "Please Mr. Postman: Starting a Direct Mail Campaign", which will be presented with Ann Andrusyszyn from Barrie Public. This session is #1709 and will be presented on Saturday, February 4th at 9:05.

Laurey Gillies will be presenting a session, with Jim Morgenstern, on the Library's Contribution to your Community. This session is #1314 and will be presented on Friday, February 3rd at 3:45 pm.

---

14. SOLS CEO LISTSERV

SOLS maintains a list of all the e-mail addresses for SOLS CEOs. It is this list that is used to distribute *Signal*. Several times through the month, you may also receive other messages from SOLS. This month, the following messages were sent:

- On December 5th, Laurey Gillies, SOLS CEO, forwarded an e-mail from CBC regarding the Canada Reads program. The message was that the fifth edition of Canada Reads, CBC Radio's annual battle of the books, includes the following books: *Deafening* by Frances Itani; *A Complicated Kindness* by Miriam Toews; *Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden; *Cocksure* by Mordecai Richler, and *Rooms for Rent in the Outer Planets* by Al Purdy. The on-air debates, with panelists Maureen McTeer, Scott Thompson, Susan Musgrave, Nelofer Pazira and John K. Samson, will run April 17 to April 21 on CBC Radio One. More information is available at www.cbc.ca/canadareads
- On December 15th, Laurey Gilles sent a message with an invitation for all to attend the SOLS Open House on Friday, February 3, 2006 from 6 pm to 8 pm. The Open House is being held in the SOLS office at 111 Peter St., Suite 902, Toronto.
- On December 15th, Laurey Gillies sent a message regarding materials for the seventh annual First Nations Public Library Week from February 13th to 18th, 2006. At the request of the First Nations Public Library Week planning committee, Ontario Library Service-North has negotiated a bulk purchase of promotional items and will be placing orders provided there is sufficient interest. These items are an excellent way for First Nation public libraries to promote their services to their communities. They are also an excellent way for municipal public libraries to raise awareness of the aboriginal resources in their own collections and, in some instances, their First Nation neighbours. Items mentioned included drawstring tote bags (with a book dream-catcher graphic, with the words "Preserving our cultures story by story, Building our communities book by book"), pencils, magnets, vinyl decals, and temporary tattoos. An order form was attached, and orders were due at the OLN-North office in Sudbury at December 20, 2005.

If you did not receive these messages, and would like further information, please contact the SOLS HelpDesk at 1-800-387-5765, ext. 4, or by e-mail to helpdesk@sols.org

---

15. SOLS BOARD SUMMARY - *December 2005*

Budget Cut

SOLS and OLS-N received news of a budget cut of $700,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Culture in June. SOLS' share of this cut is approximately $462,000, or 14.4% of our operating budget. At its June and September meetings, the Board reviewed SOLS' priorities and services in light of consultations held with our client libraries, and implemented cuts in two stages over the summer and fall. The cuts included:

- Elimination of province-wide research (two positions lost).

- Reduction in consortia/charitable purchasing (one position lost).

- Reduction in translation (half a position lost).

- Reduction in senior management and associated consulting service in space planning and facilities (one position lost).

- Elimination of specialist consulting in governance (one position lost).

These changes also resulted in a reorganization at SOLS, with Barbara Franchetto assuming

the position of Director of Services, and Daryl Novak taking over as Director of Operations. A new organizational chart is posted with the electronic version of the Board Summary at http://www.sols.org/aboutsols/Board/summaries/index.htm

At the December meeting, the Board continued discussion of ways to reduce its own expenses. In addition to reducing the frequency of its meetings, the Board also began a review of its size and composition.

With these changes, we estimate that we have achieved the annualized savings of $462,000. There remains, however, a shortfall as a result of severance. Following discussions with the Ministry of Culture, a third party financial review was undertaken this fall. The consulting firm of Grant Thornton was the successful vendor and attended SOLS' Board meeting to provide an oral report of initial findings. The final report is due for submission to the Ministry in December.

Further, as a result of the budget cut, the Board is very concerned about SOLS' ability to fulfill its role in regard to Priority 2b where most of the losses were incurred, and Priority 3. The Board will formally notify the Minister of this issue and once again encourage her to undertake an overall review of the Ministry's library program.

Linkage Development – Open House - SOLS' Board decided to hold an Open House again this year in conjunction with the OLA Superconference. It has been a difficult year for SOLS, and we wish to both thank our client libraries and encourage their ongoing efforts in support of SOLS. The Open House will be held on Friday February 3, 2006 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at SOLS' office at 111 Peter Street, Toronto.

Linkage Development – Ontario Library Boards Association - SOLS asked for a meeting to review SOLS' role and services with OLBA and to consider the best ways for the two organizations to link. The invitation was extended to OPLA and OLS-N as well, since they also have an interest in trustee development.

OLBA shared its 2006 – 2009 draft strategic plan, and SOLS and OLS-N reviewed relevant aspects of their plans. Several areas of collaboration were identified including promoting the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines*, expanding the OLS clearinghouse in regard to board development, and revising the Municipal Councillor's Handbook and presentation materials, as well as the Library Board Orientation Kit. There was also a specific suggestion that the library boards represented on the boards of SOLS, OLS-N and OLBA pursue accreditation for their own libraries as a concrete means of supporting the *Guidelines*.

Linkage Development – Federation of Ontar ublic Libraries - As an Associate Member of FOPL, SOLS is entitled to receive board material and has the option of attending board meetings and speaking to issues. Since the Federation's four pillars of advocacy, marketing, consortia purchasing and research include overlaps with SOLS' mandate and priorities, we wish to participate in board meetings to ensure that the work of the two organizations is complementary. While this privilege of membership was not extended for most of 2005, a notice was received for the November meeting and we have assurances that this will continue. As a result, SOLS Board decided to renew its membership in the Federation for 2006.

Assurance of Funding – Provincial Government - At the December meeting, the Board discussed how to maintain a profile for SOLS as we enter a new round of municipal and provincial elections. The Board is encouraging libraries to include support for SOLS in their lobby of local politicians. We are also pleased that OLBA has agreed to include SOLS in any material it prepares in advance of municipal and provincial elections.

Assurance of Funding – Other Prospects - SOLS' Board launched a campaign to solicit individual donations to support the work SOLS does to assist public libraries. Donations were solicited for an Innovation Fund which will help SOLS implement such initiatives as this year's ebook project. By the end of October, over $13,000 had been raised with an average gift of over $500. One third of the donors are new contributors this year and the other two thirds are

SOLS Board and staff members. The Board will be developing a plan for next year's campaign shortly.

Operations Planning Quarterly Update - An update on SOLS' services is available on the SOLS website at www.sols.org. From the main page, select "Service Plans and Reports"

Next Board Meeting - The next meeting of SOLS' Board is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SOLS' office in Toronto.

---

16. ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 5, 2005

A list of some of the library projects which were announced on December 5th (for projects submitted in July 2005) appears at the end of this newsletter.

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry County Library - $19,500 to enhance organizational capacity to serve library patrons in 18 small rural communities through increased collection of books on CD and the provision of a book drop in two communities.

Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards - $4,600 for the public library to improve reading area for parents and tots, update the collection of books, videos and DVDs and increase talking and large print books for people with visual impairments.

Township of Madawaska Valley - $9,000 to purchase shelving and furniture in order to enhance the children's reading section at the Barry's Bay & Area Public Library.

The Corporation of the Township of Cavan - Millbrook-North Monaghan - $32,100 for equipment and expertise to implement a web-based integrated library system that will increase circulation and improve access to library materials for more citizens in the community.

The Corporation of the Township of Brock - $41,600 for equipment and program costs to increase the efficiency of the Brock Township Public Library, complete a strategic plan and improve access to learning through increased collections.

The Corporation of the Township of North Kawartha - $42,000 to upgrade the library's automation system, which will allow on-line access to library services for library users and increase their access to information and educational materials.

Corporation of the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield - $92,100 over two years to implement a new computerized lending system through a volunteer training program, increasing access to library resources and strengthening the library's volunteer network.

Woodland Cultural Centre - $34,100 to purchase furniture and equipment that will increase students' access to this Brantford library and its rare book collection, key academics' research papers and wide range of materials of interest to researchers and Native Studies students.

Bruce County Library Board - $40,000 to purchase large print and talking books on CD-ROM for 18 library branches that serve a growing seniors population in Bruce County communities.

The Corporation of the Township of Southgate - $5,000 to purchase and install an accessible and secure exterior book-return box at the front of library in Dundalk in order for residents to return library materials given the limited hours the library is open.

Municipality of North Perth - $15,000 to purchase books, audio-visual materials and accessible storage in order to increase public access to information on healthy living, body weight and lifestyles.

Municipality of West Perth - $15,000 to replace outdated reference materials and purchase additional non-fiction books and videos for the library, enabling it to better respond to requests from more than 1,500 members in Mitchell and the surrounding area.

Town of the Blue Mountains - $10,500 to purchase computer equipment and educational resources for the Leonard E. Shore Memorial Library in Thornbury and make these available for public use and for use by youth attending the homework club.

The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bay - $12,800 to develop a library collection that includes two collections of juvenile books on tapes or CDs and music CDs for young children, benefiting the township residents, as well as the neighbouring Aboriginal community.

Town of Gravenhurst - $20,000 to purchase software and peripherals needed to complete the Gravenhurst Library Automation System upgrade resulting in resources being more accessible to all patrons.

Town of Huntsville - $8,600 to increase accessibility to the town's library by installing an automatic door opener for the inside entrance, purchasing software, library materials and an adjustable computer desk.

Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet - $49,200 to renovate the library, purchase furniture and equipment and increase its capacity to serve as a community gathering place, providing a safer and more efficient space.

Township of West Lincoln - $45,600 to install automatic door openers and barrier-free circulation desks at the Caistorville and Smithville library branches and provide shelving at the Caistorville branch, which will improve access and service to the community.

Corporation of the Town of Carleton Place - $40,900 to purchase equipment that will upgrade the technological capabilities of the Carleton Place Library and enhance accessibility to its collection, enabling it to better meet the needs of the community.

Municipality of Hastings Highlands - $27,200 to obtain new resources and make improvements to the children's section of library in Maynooth, which will provide an early years literacy program.

Clearview Public Library - $6,300 to purchase shelving, study carrels, Internet workstation tables and furnishings for a children's reading and activity area in this library with branches in Creemore, Stayner and New Lowell.

Essa Centennial Library - $34,700 to expand library collections and provide staff training in reference skills and tools and a word processing station for job applications.

Elgin County Library Board –$6,500 to purchase and install automatic door openers at the Belmont and Springfield branches; $4,700 to purchase library furniture and fixtures for children that will make the Dutton branch accessible, uniform and contemporary; and $1,700 to purchase puppets, a listening centre and a rug for the community children's centre at the Shedden Branch.

All issues of SIGNAL can be viewed online at http://www.sols.org/librarydev/publications/Signal/index.htm. However, if anyone would like to receive the e-mail version of this newsletter, please send a message to signal@sols.org . You can reach the editor of SIGNAL at: signal@sols.org or by telephone at 1-866-380-9767.

Disclaimer. For questions, comments and suggestions regarding this website, please Contact SOLS Helpdesk.
Southern Ontario Library Service